



WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 22, 1861.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

The Charleston Mercury of Friday has the following:—"For two days past our port has been without the presence of the Niagara, which vessel has left for parts unknown. She has been reported off Savannah, in company with the brig Perry, and has been seen off North Edisto, but at present we have no certain information of her position. The Hattress has also been observed near this bar, but she has also left; our port is consequently without any obstruction at the moment; and yesterday we had several arrivals from foreign ports, among them a schooner with a cargo of molasses from Gardano, and a British brig with pig iron and coal from Glasgow. The latter has been taken up to return to the same port, and has been engaged off of Sea Island cotton at the enormous price of two pence half penny per pound. Such a freight has not been given in the memory of the oldest inhabitant."

The New Orleans Pienymne of the 14th instant says:—"Already a capital privateering vessel has been fitted out in this city, and is now ready, fully armed and fully officered, waiting for the letters of marque and reprisal which are daily expected from Montgomery. We have the names of the vessel and officers, which we will publish in due time. The work of fitting out another privateer is going on, something over one-fourth of the stock of \$200,000 having been subscribed up to the hour of the meeting at noon yesterday in the old United States Court room for the purpose of furthering the enterprise. For the information of those disposed to embark in the work, we would state that the officers of the vessels are to be appointed according to the election of the stockholders. In this connection we have heard of such names as Captain Calender Fayssoux of this city, and Captain Henry Maury, of Mobile, and many others suitable to command. Captain Wilson and others taking an interest in this matter may be consulted daily at the old United States Court room."

John Forsyth, of the Mobile Register, writes from Montgomery:—"W. H. Russell, the famous Indian and Crimean correspondent of the London Times, is here. He is, of course, reserved in the expression of his opinion. But enough has leaked out in his interviews with the gentlemen of Savannah and Charleston, and the planters who have entertained him and exhibited their slave estates in the vicinity of these two cities, to show that he recognizes here the true type of the Anglo-Saxon race, as distinguished from the whittling and puritanical bastard degenerates of that race who are doing to make a war of decimation against us. Mr. Russell goes hence to Pensacola, and thence to Mobile and New Orleans. I commend him to the hospitalities of our people, as a cultivated English gentleman who has distinguished himself by his talents and attainments."

On Saturday evening an explosion occurred in the rear of the Scott Legion, Army, on Liberty street, Philadelphia, by which Fire-Marshal Blackburn was badly burned about his face and hands. It seems that some one had removed the plug from an immense service pipe in the vault, and an immense volume of gas escaped from the vault, thence through the area between it and the cellar of the armory. Mr. B. and a man named Hawkins, the former carrying a lamp, undertook to discover the leak. Unfortunately the volumes of gas ignited from the light in the lantern, and a terrific explosion followed instantaneously. The flame shot up to a distance of nearly 100 feet, and buildings in the neighborhood were shaken by the concussion. Mr. Blackburn was blown to a distance of nearly twenty feet. One side of his face, whiskers and hair were burned, and one of his eyes badly injured. The inside of one of his ears was found to be cut.

M. Rezet of Rouen has an ice-making machine, by which he manufactures ice at a cost of ten cents per 100 pounds. Ether is utilized in a close vessel, by exhausting the air on its surface with an air pump, worked by a steam engine. The vapor is then exhausted and forced into another vessel, where it is condensed by compression and cold water. It is then forced back into the first vessel, and the operation is repeated. The volatilization of the ether produces intense cold, which is communicated through a non-freezing fluid to water. All the operations are performed by the machine, except that of removing the blocks of ice from the ice-moulds, and replacing them with cold water. A machine of horse power turns out three tons of ice daily.

A correspondent at Williamsport, Maryland, informs the Baltimore American that on Sunday afternoon one thousand Virginia troops from Harper's Ferry arrived and encamped on the Virginia side of the Potomac opposite that place. An additional thousand, with field pieces, was expected to arrive there Monday. Williamsport is but six miles from Hagerstown, to which point, if rumor is correct, the large force of Federal troops gathered at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, is shortly to be removed.

It is perhaps not generally known that the finest, meiliest and most nutritious potatoes are always denser and heavier than those which are soft and waxy. An English inventor has taken advantage of this to select the best by what he calls a "Patent Gravity Potato Selector." In order to classify potatoes into three qualities, he uses two solutions, one of a specific gravity of 1,100 and one of 1,080. Only the best potatoes will sink in the first—the medium potatoes will sink in the second, while the poor ones will float on the surface.

The officers of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad state that the trains are running regularly, with the exception of the detentions which take place at the Relay House and Harper's Ferry—the troops at both points overhauling all the freight contained in the cars. The Company have also for the present, destined to run their trains during the night between the Monocacy and Harper's Ferry.

The French Government has bored fifty artesian wells in the Province of Constantine, in Algeria, at an expense of only \$600 each. These wells yield some 90,000 gallons of water per minute, and will go far to render the country a desirable dwelling place.

The Brigade of Hon. D. E. Sickles, will comprise five thousand picked men. His officers are among the most accomplished and scientific military men. His first aid, Maj. Williamson, was educated at West Point, and served with Garibaldi in his Italian campaigns; and one of his colonels is the son of the old postmaster of Philadelphia, now a resident of New York, Col. H. Phillips Montgomery. He also has a legion of English gentlemen who served with distinction in the Crimean war. Although most of our entire regiment of Pennsylvanians have enlisted under his flag, there are full companies of Italians and Frenchmen in this brigade. General Sickles has surpassed most other men in his equipments, and in the material of his subsistence. He has organized a perfect pontoon train, by which he can cross rivers or streams at the shortest notice with his whole force of sappers and miners, and a complete system by which his men can carry provisions enough to last for ten days, having in this respect borrowed from the admirable regiment of the French in Sebastopol, Italy and Algiers, by which they saved many thousands of lives, and vastly promoted the comfort of their soldiers. It is proposed to advance this brigade to Washington through Pennsylvania.

In building the great bridge just completed across the Rhine at Kehl, it was necessary to use diving bells to lay the foundations of the piers. A large number of the workmen have been attacked with affections of the ear, and several have been made permanently deaf by their long continued labor under a pressure of two or three atmospheres.

By an arrival at New York, we learn that two vessels had arrived at Havana from Texas, with two hundred and fifty United States troops and some women and children on board. By the same arrival we also have advice from Key West. Under the administration of Major French, the island remained quiet and loyal to the government. Portions of the Atlantic cable recovered, show not the slightest symptom of decay or deterioration in the gutta percha. It has been subjected to severe electrical tests, and, on comparison with the tests of the cable as it left the gutta percha works three years ago, it is found that there has been an actual improvement in its condition since it was laid down.

A bill is before Parliament to regulate the use of locomotives on common roads. It provides for tolls, limits the weight of locomotives, compels them to consume their own smoke, requires two persons in charge, and limits their speed. No locomotive is to be used in London more than seven feet wide, or with wheels more than six inches wide.

Coal-burning locomotives have been extensively introduced on the Central Railway of France. They have long been running on the New Jersey Railroad, where they are found to save nearly 50 per cent in fuel over wood-burning engines. In England, coke is in universal use for locomotives.

The ladies of Washington have prepared a magnificent flag, which they propose to present to the President, to be floated from the White House. The dimensions of the banner will be thirty-six feet by fifty-four, and it will cost about \$300. On the occasion of its presentation it is expected there will be a dress parade of all the forces in Washington, except those on guard duty.

On Saturday a party of boys, while fishing in Jones Falls, at Baltimore, fished up a new musket. The fact being made known to several gentlemen, the place was dragged, and over twenty additional guns recovered. They are of Harper's Ferry make, and cap locks.

The people of Savannah, owing to the severity of small change, have adopted twenty five cent bills, issued by the Mechanics' Saving and Loan Association. They are made payable, not in cash, but in current bank bills.

The Nominating Convention for the Third Congressional District, met in Baltimore on Monday. Messrs. J. Morrison Harris, C. L. L. Leary, Augustus W. Bradford, John B. Seidenicker and Robt. Turner were placed in nomination.

The New Orleans Delta says that the cost of maintaining the Southern army at Fort Pickens is \$10,000 per day, also, that the time for taking the old seat of Government at Washington, without a desperate battle, is evidently gone by.

Captain Elzey, late United States commandant of the Augusta, Ga., Arsenal, was at Montgomery last week, having resigned his commission and tendered his services to the Confederate States.

The British ship Sir Allan McNab which arrived in Charleston on Saturday from Liverpool, saluted the Confederate flag on Fort Sumner, which was responded to by the Fortification.

Hon. Henry Winter Davis addressed a portion of his constituents at the New Assembly Rooms Monday night, and accepted the nomination as a candidate for Congress in the Fourth Congressional District.

A son of Mr. George Burns, of Washington, aged twelve years, was run over by an omnibus on Fourteenth street, on Saturday afternoon, and was so seriously injured as to cause his death on Sunday.

Wm. Weaver, of Newport, Perry county, Pa., convicted some time ago of poisoning his wife, was sentenced, on Tuesday last to suffer the extreme penalty of the law.

Pennsylvania proposes to furnish fifty-five regiments for the war; she anticipates three millions. New York offers thirty-eight additional regiments.

The largest gasometer in the world is in London, at Hackney; it holds 2,500,000 feet. The next largest is in Philadelphia, holding 1,800,000 feet.

In London there were 1,056 fires during the year 1860. While 222 of these are known to have been caused by the use of candles, only 98 were attributed to gas.

The New Orleans Pienymne reports that the private steamer Calhoun, captured on the 15th inst., the bark Ocean Eagle, of Rockland, Maine.

L. Scott & Co., of New York, have republished the April number of the Edinburgh Review. It contains articles on the personal history of Lord Bacon—The Republic of Andron—Political memoirs—Eton College—Alexis de Torgueville—The famous Essays and Reviews—The letters of Mrs. Pizzini—The Fables of Babilra—Forbes Island and the election of Lincoln and its consequences, the latter being at this time likely to attract much attention. The opinion of the Review is that the further maintenance of the Union is impossible—and that if the sections could separate peaceably—and would have the good sense to abstain from mutual aggression—each of the two great countries might continue to play an important part in the affairs of the world, as when they were united by what turns out to have been all along but the slender tie, of a Federal Compact—Robt. Bell, agent.

By the Persia we have some additional items of foreign news. It was asserted, but not believed, that letters of marque, issued by the Southern Confederacy, had been granted to vessels at Liverpool and London.—Lord Derby expressed the hope in the House of Lords that the forthcoming proclamation by the Government would give an emphatic warning that if British subjects join privateers, or become involved in American hostilities, that their blood would be on their own head, and that no redress would be obtained from England. Preparations were making for an American Union meeting in London. The London Times says that the mediation of England might as well be offered to a hurricane as to the United States in the present revolution. No war risks for the Gulf of Mexico were taken at Lloyd's.

The Baltimore Sun says:—"Concede the subjugation, extermination, dismemberment if you will (as proposed in Virginia) of the South—that southern nationality which has been officially proclaimed. Admit the possibility of holding it a subjugated party, by force of arms for thirty or fifty years. Blot out its history if you will, (if you can) erase the memory of equal rights, of brave deeds, of a gallant ancestry, until you have a new generation to take the places of the 'rebels and traitors' of to-day, and in thirty or fifty years, or whenever the first opportunity shall occur, southern nationality will spring into existence as fresh, exultant and eager for its independence and renown as it is to-day. And more than this. The attempt, however successful may have been, to coerce, chastise, subdue and humiliate, will diffuse throughout that nationality a heritage of hate, and scorn, which will intensify with years, and some day achieve a terrible revenge."

A bill has been introduced into the British Parliament for establishing Councils of Conciliation to settle differences between employers and their workmen. It provides for councils which shall consist of an equal number of employers and the workmen, but the chairman of a council must neither be an employer nor operative mechanic. All trade disputes are to be brought before such councils, who are to decide them; but they are not authorized to establish a rate of wages, or prices which shall be paid for work. In France, there are courts called prud-hommes which are similar in their nature to the proposed Councils of Conciliation, but trades unions are not allowed in the empire.

The Southern Congress—Fort Pickens. MONTGOMERY, May 13 and 14.—Since noon, I learn from good authority, that the Congress will certainly adjourn within seven or eight days at farthest, to meet in July next, at Richmond. The precise day is not given upon which to reassemble in Virginia; and I am also assured that the month is not positively fixed, though the majority seem inclined to favor July, rather than June, as has been proposed. The reason assigned for an adjournment, is that the moral effect upon Maryland will be good, and the presence of the President, so much desired in the Old Dominion, will inspire the people of the Border States with renewed confidence.

During the next five days, at least, all the time that can be spared will be devoted to framing a tariff, arranging the schedules, and affixing the duties on importations. In this work, it is true, a good deal of the time of Congress has already been consumed, so that within a few days more the labor will be finished.

It is stated that over ten thousand men are now centered at this point, and more are on the march. This morning two additional companies from Georgia, and two from Mobile, went down in the cars. It is given out that the force before Pickens will be increased each day until fifteen or twenty thousand men are congregated there. Then the engagement will commence.

In the meantime, the enemy is not idle. He has thrown up formidable batteries on every available spot on Santa Rosa Island, and seems determined to give us smart work before the stronghold is captured. Most of the United States soldiers in opposition to us, are well tried and veteran troops. They have seen service in Texas, and know in what sense the trade they follow.

The rumor was very current on the streets yesterday, that Pike, with 2,000 Indians at his back, was on his way to the Capital, to offer his and their services to the Confederate States. This will be a novel feature in the aspect of the war, when two such well mounted regiments as these are secured.

President Davis left the Capital to-day at two o'clock for Henric, in all purposes simply to visit the position of Gen. Bragg, and make a thorough inspection of the state of affairs round about Pickens.

As heretofore, our troops from the surrounding States continue to pass through Montgomery in large numbers. By the time everything is ready for action, it is estimated that Gen. Bragg will have under command at least 15,000 men.—Charleston Courier.

Mount Vernon. The New York World says:—"General Sickles sent Captain Vannest, a member of the First Brigade Staff, W. C. Frost, Sixth Company, Seventh Regiment, and Dr. Rawlings, Military Secretary, to Mount Vernon this morning. They rode on horseback, down and back, and examined the tomb of Washington, which they found cobwebbed and untouched as of old. They obtained a certificate from G. D. Williamson, Captain of the Loudoun Cavalry, to the effect that they had done so. No soldiers are permitted near the place."

It is stated that out of forty-three members of the bar in Savannah, Ga., thirty-seven are now serving as volunteers.

Printers Ink is now manufactured in Richmond, Va.

LETTER FROM SENATOR MASON. To the Editor of the "Winchester Virginian." The question has been frequently put to me, what position will Virginia occupy, should the Ordinance of Secession be rejected by the people at the approaching election? And the frequency of the question may be an excuse for giving publicity to the answer.

The Ordinance of Secession withdrew the State of Virginia from the Union, with all the consequences resulting from the separation. It annulled the Constitution and the laws of the United States, within the limits of this State, and absolved the citizens of Virginia, from all obligation of obedience to them.

Hence it follows,—if this Ordinance be rejected by the people, the State of Virginia will remain in the Union, and the people of the State will remain bound by the Constitution of the United States—and obedience to the Government and the laws of the United States, will be fully and rightfully enforced against them.

It follows, of course, that in the war now carried on by the Government of the United States against the seceded States, Virginia must immediately change sides, and under the orders of that Government turn her arms against her Southern sisters.

Richmond, Va. has no escape. As a member of the Union, all her resources of men and money will be at once at the command of the Government of the Union.

Again: For mutual defence, immediately after the Ordinance of Secession passed, a treaty, or "military league," was formed by the Convention, in the name of the people of Virginia, with the "Confederate States" of the South—by which, the latter were bound to march to the aid of our State, against the invasion of the Federal Government. And we have now in Virginia, at Harper's Ferry, and at Norfolk, in the common foe, several thousand of the gallant sons of South Carolina, of Alabama, of Louisiana, Georgia and Mississippi, who hastened to fulfill the covenant they made, and are ready and eager to lay down their lives, side by side with our sons, in defence of the soil of Virginia.

If the Ordinance of Secession is rejected, not only will this "military league" be annulled, but it will have been made a trap, to inveigle our generous defenders into the hands of their enemies.

Virginia remaining in the Union, duty, and loyalty to her obligations to the Union, will require, that those Southern forces shall not be permitted to leave the State, but shall be delivered up to the Government of the United States, and those who refuse to do so, will be guilty of treason, and be justly dealt with as traitors.

Treason against the United States consists as well "in adhering to its enemies, and giving them aid," as in leaving war.

If it be asked, what are those to do, who in their consciences cannot vote to separate Virginia from the United States—the answer is simple and plain—honor and duty, alike require, that they should not vote on the question—and if they retain such opinions, they must leave the State.

None can doubt or question the truth of what I have written, and none can vote against the Ordinance of Secession, who do not thereby, (whether ignorantly or otherwise) vote to place himself and his State in the position I have indicated.

J. M. MASON. Winchester, Va., May 16, 1861.

Telegraphic Despatches. WASHINGTON, May 20.—The United States transport steamer Freeborn arrived here this afternoon, direct from Fort Monroe, bringing despatches to the Government. On her way up the Potomac she captured two small vessels, and wharfed them at Washington Navy Yard.

A passenger by the Freeborn states that on Saturday two vessels from the fleet made a visit to the vicinity of Sewall's Point, about four miles from Fort Monroe, and that the Virginia were erecting batteries, and that the enemy shells at the works, spoiling materially the architectural arrangements. Shots were fired at the vessels, but without effect. It is not known that anybody on shore was injured. Commodore Pendergrast sent a flag of truce to Norfolk, with a view of making arrangements for the transportation of certain persons to the North, and received assurances that in this respect he should be accommodated. A vessel was in waiting to take them to New York. Some excitement was occasioned to-day by the report of a fight at the mouth of the Potomac river between a Federal coast guard steamer and an armed propeller from Richmond, resulting, it was said, in the killing of four and the wounding of five on the former.

The truth of the story being doubted, the New York Tribune made some reasonable inquiries in the proper quarter, and is satisfied that the rumor is wholly unfounded. Captain Delgren, in command of the Washington Navy Yard, and who has frequent communication with Fort Washington, so pronounces it.

LOUISVILLE, May 18.—The Frankfort Convention will probably not be represented by any State out of Kentucky. It will not meet before the latter part of next week, and will no doubt confine its labors to simply an address to both sections, recommending the restoration of peace, and declaring in favor of the Armistice, as announced here, is to send Col. Anderson into Kentucky, with the olive branch in one hand and a brigade in the other. He may constitute the head, centre, and front of the armed neutrality movement, and locate his camp not far from Louisville, prepared alike to prevent a hostile invasion of Kentucky's soil from troops North or South.

Col. Anderson may not arrive here with this intent for two or three weeks yet. United States Senator Breckinridge is disposed to await the action of the 4th of July election session of Congress, before resorting to extreme measures.

NEW ORLEANS, May 20.—A passenger from Texas, who arrived here, reports that General Young, commander of the Texas troops, in pursuing the Federal troops, overtook the baggage, supply and ammunition trains, which were seized, with some heaves and horses.

Maj. Montgomery had evacuated Fort Washita and was on his way to Fort Arbuckle. General Young was determined to take Forts Cobb and Arbuckle.

Letter from the Northern Neck. Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette, Suiton, Va., May 16.—Our county may have been somewhat slow in her movements towards preparation for the threatened invasion from the North, but her action has not been delayed by indifference or lack of a proper appreciation of her responsibility in this crisis. Her citizens, for the most part, comprise men of a cool, calm, calculating temperament—men of sound common sense, who take rational views of all matters, whether of individual or of public interest—men guileless in their own motives, and slow to suspect the actions of others. They were for a long time loth to believe that the degeneracy of the Northern people had so far advanced, and the fanaticism of their leaders become so intensified, as thus soon to culminate in a perfidious crusade by the people against the rights and liberties of the South. We have been of those who were most hopeful that reason and sound policy, to say nothing of common justice, would have dictated a different course from that which the Lincoln Government has seen fit to pursue.

I have said this much by way of apology for the apparent tardiness of our people. When the base treachery of Lincoln and his miserable junta of counsellors left no hope for a peaceful settlement, there was no longer delay in our midst. For the last three or four weeks, our people have been directed in their movements towards defensive preparation. They are now fully aroused. There is no division of sentiment to embarrass their operations. All are animated with a spirit of determined resistance to Northern vandalism. Our old men vie with the young and middle aged in expressing their ready response to resist to the death any effort made to subjugate the South. Many of the boys, those too young to be brought under the requisition of law, have volunteered in spite of parental remonstrance, and donned the paraphernalia of soldiers.

An efficient Home Guard has been formed, under command of Col. E. T. Taylor. The Volunteer Company, recently organized, has been fully armed and equipped, and is now ready for active service. The militia of the county has also received arms, and are regularly drilled.

A Cavalry Company is now forming, with a fair prospect of soon becoming fully organized. Let it be understood that our old county is no longer behind the times.

The Mounted Guards, under command of Capt. Wharton, arrived here yesterday afternoon, on their way to King George Co., where they will remain quartered to await orders.

From the South. The Millidgeville Recorder of the 7th instant says that there now are in the State of Georgia, ready for the field, two hundred and sixty-three volunteer companies, constituting a force of not less than 18,000 vigorous men, and that there can be 50,000 more raised in less than a month, should the exigencies of the service demand it.

The project of organizing a company of flying artillery for service in the Southern army, is being vigorously pressed in Charleston. It is composed of one hundred and twenty men, and has been privileged to select a battery of field-pieces and one hundred and ten horses.

President Davis's has commissioned ex-Secretary Floyd to be a General in the Confederate service, and directed him to raise a brigade in Virginia.

Hon. A. G. Brown, late United States Senator, is in command of the Mississippi companies.

THE UNITED STATES ARSENAL AT ST. LOUIS.—A citizen of St. Louis, thus describes the Federal Arsenal at that city, now occupied by Government troops—regulars and volunteers:

"Our Arsenal is by long odds the largest and finest in the United States, and surpasses other public depositories of arms as far as Fort Monroe excels all other fortified posts. Its walls are ten feet high and three feet thick, of massive limestone, and enclose thirty-eight or forty acres of beautifully adapted land, extending from Carondelet wharf to the Mississippi. In grass, and trees, and nicely arranged paths and walks, it equals any gentleman's park I have ever seen. The foundries and store houses, soldiers' barracks, hospital and prison house, powder magazine, dragon stables and officers' dwellings, with their handsome yards and gardens, make up a perfect village in size. These buildings are of elegant architectural designs and proportions, and even the entry boxes are constructed in a tasteful and ornamental manner.

The grounds are drained by sewers running to the river, and abound in wells of clear, pure water. The whole Arsenal property is worth to the Government at least ten millions of dollars, and it is in such a complete state of defence that all the Secessionists in Missouri could not take it, and would not dare attack it.—At nearly all available points cartworks have been thrown up, and are mounted with columbiads and mortars. A huge new Carondelet avenue, is occupied by two companies of regulars, who have constructed a strong cartwork, topped with sand bags, and mounted with formidable pieces of ordnance. Other elevated positions, some of them a quarter of a mile from the Arsenal, are occupied by volunteers as outposts, and if need be, will be entrenched and mounted with cannon."

INTERESTING FROM UTAH TERRITORY.—Advices from Salt Lake city to the 26th ult. state that the fall of Fort Sumter and the secession of Virginia, had created intense interest among the "Saints." The news was read in the tabernacle by Brigham Young, and the disciples were asked to believe that this was merely the prediction of Jo Smith about the "breaking up of the American Union."

Capt. Gardner, of the army, left Fort Bridger about the middle of April, without arms and without banding in his resignation to Colonel Cooke, commanding the department of Utah. This step was supposed to be owing to the captain's secession prejudices. Lieut. Good, another United States officer, at Fort Crittenden, handed in his resignation, and five others were expected to do likewise.

Gov. Cumming was to have left Utah on the 15th inst., for the banks of the Savannah, anticipating the arrival of his successor and the other new Territorial officers.

By the steamer De Solo, from Havana, which arrived at New York; Thursday we have news from the Gulf fleet and Key West. The Niagara and Huntsville had taken several prizes and sent them North, and the United States fleet at Key West had taken other prizes. A Northern vessel had been taken by the South at Apalachicola, Fla., and it was reported that they had hanged her captain.

Prof. O. M. Mitchell, the astronomer, has tendered his services to the Government.

BRITISH COLONIAL OPINION OF THE WAR IN AMERICA. [From the Kingston (Jama.) Guardian, May 2. Civil war has fairly commenced in the United States of America; and he must be considered a bold man who would venture to predict where it will end. The Southern Confederate States, mistaking forbearance for pusillanimity, and calculating falsely upon the division of parties in the North, have boldly struck for war, by taking a step which has compelled President Lincoln to adopt measures for vindicating the authority of the law and upholding the powers of the government. The action taken by the President in the present emergency, thus unwisely forced upon him, has been seconded by the people with an enthusiasm and alacrity which show that the hearts of the great majority of the Americans are still loyalty true to the Union, and to those noble principles upon which the republic was founded—and that the people are prepared and resolved to defend to the utmost, the cause of freedom, law, and order now imperiled through treason. We can well imagine the dismay with which the secessionists must have been seized, upon receiving intelligence of the response which was given to President Lincoln's proclamation calling out the militia.

The blood spilt at Baltimore had the effect of rousing the men of the North to fury, and they are now eager to be led out that they may take vengeance upon the barbarism and inhumanity that could thus wantonly sacrifice the lives of their fellow citizens. Altogether, the passions which have been aroused on both sides, must awaken the most painful apprehensions; that the conflict will be indeed a fierce and bloody one. That good—great good—to the cause of freedom, and humanity, and civilization, and religion, will ultimately come out of this terrible collision, we have not the slightest doubt; but even in the confident anticipation of those ulterior and important benefits, and in the presence of that imposing display of a pure and ardent patriotism which the free States now present to the admiring gaze of mankind, we cannot but deeply deplore that cruel necessity which has made a resort to arms inevitable, awakened such fiery passions, and arrayed against each other in hostile array those who only six months ago dwelt as countrymen and brethren under the aegis of the same protecting power.

[From the Nassau, N. P., Guardian, May 8.] Both parties in this deplorable conflict are amply supplied with the weapons of war, and both parties appear to be animated by a hatred of each other that Frenchmen and Englishmen never displayed during long years of bitter warfare.

These circumstances, and our former most largely of America during the past six months will certainly seem a thing incredible to future generations. Never since it became a nation, was the republic so prosperous—never were its harvests so prolific, so remunerative—its mines so teeming with—its trade so flourishing—its manufactures inexhaustible wealth. Its citizens enjoyed the most perfect liberty, and the ballot box was open for the redress of every real or imaginary grievance. In her position of proud independence, America was once the envy and admiration of the world. Now all this is changed; the future is black as midnight, and civilization is shocked at this fratricidal war. We can only hope that passion may give way to reason—that patriotism may induce civility—and that our country may emerge from its present sore trial to reoccupy the lofty rank it held but six months ago among the nations of the earth.

THE CROPS AT THE SOUTH.—The Southern papers give glowing accounts of the prospects of the crops. The Augusta (Ga.) Constitutional says: "We learn that the crops in every section of the State are uncommonly promising, though comparatively backward. There are some complaints of rust in the wheat, but it has as yet appeared only on the blade, where it does little harm. It has not attacked the stalk, and the wheat is so near maturity as to be nearly out of danger. The crop of wheat is likely to be the largest one known in Georgia."

The Mason Telegraph says: "In Southern Georgia the planters are now harvesting an unprecedented wheat crop. In Middle Georgia they will soon be doing the same thing. We heard a planter from Jones County making a bet that a twenty acre field in his neighborhood would average thirty bushels of wheat to the acre. If the crop swarms just a few days longer, it is the judgment of a friend of ours that two year's supply of wheat would be raised in Georgia this year."

PUBLIC MEETING IN FAIRFAX.—There was a large meeting of the citizens of Fairfax, at the Court House, on Monday, notwithstanding the unfavorable weather. W. H. Dulaney, esq., a member of the Convention addressed the people.

He stated to them that he had voted against the ordinance of secession, but that he thought now there should be no division. The course of the administration made the imperative duty of every loyal son of Virginia to strike for her independence.

H. W. Thomas next addressed the people, in an argumentative and able speech in favor of its ratification.

Major G. W. Brent, of Alexandria, another member of the Convention, in response to a call from the crowd, addressed them in a short and eloquent speech, full of enthusiasm, counselling unanimity in the vote for ratification.

S. T. Stuart, esq., and W. O. Slade, also addressed the meeting in short and telling speeches, congratulating the people upon the sentiment, and purpose which pervaded the meeting.

The Cleveland (Ohio) Plaindealer has the following: "DRIVE THEM BEFORE YOU.—That is, when the Federal Army enters a slave State, drive the masters (what are not killed or taken prisoners) and servants along together. If the object of this war is not to change the relations of master and slave, then we must treat them as property, and not as persons. Suppose we conquer Old Virginia, then we have 472,000 slaves on our hands to foster and feed—a calamity worse than Secession. Give them freedom, and they become free-booters in the Free States—a calamity still worse—kill them we must not—colonize them we cannot. We must drive them with their masters."

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—This morning Edward J. B. Black, private in company E (Brooklyn) 14th N. Y. Regiment, accidentally shot himself while drawing the load from his musket, the Ball entering his right breast and passing on behind the shoulder. He was immediately removed to the hospital. The wound is dangerous, but it is thought he may recover.—Wash. Star.

The United Synod concluded its session in Richmond on Monday, and adjourned to meet next year at Chattanooga.

The ship Eliza Bonnell, arrived safely at Savannah, on Saturday last.

COMMISSIONERS. I am surprised to find in articles relative to the protest by the Government at Washington, against European powers receiving commissioners from the seceded States—no mention is made of the action of the United States against Mexico in the case of Texas. Was not the independence of that State recognized, and treaties made therewith years before Mexico acknowledged that independence—did not England and France follow the example set by the Government at Washington? Was there any objection then by our government to these European powers receiving Commissioners from a revolted State on this continent.

These are questions for those who are now objecting to other nations receiving Commissioners from the Confederate States—and who will more forcibly be on their guard against Mexico by the United States—was it not to secure to the people of Texas the privilege of choosing their own form of government? Did we await then until Mexico acknowledged the independence of Texas before admitting that State into the Union? Did we not precipitately embrace the offer of the citizens of that State to annex themselves to us, and then wage war against Mexico to compel her to acquiesce, and allow the people of Texas to choose their own destiny? Did the laurels that were won by Scott and others in the many battles that were fought to gain for the people of Texas the abhorred principle, to be discarded by those brave soldiers, because they have become but emblems of departed principles. Can those now decorated with the emblems of victories won in battling for the right of the Texans to choose their own mode of government, now turn against their companions and brethren of the South, and attempt to force them to give up and relinquish forever, those cherished privileges of self-government, for which they fought side by side with these Southern brethren. It may be, but for one I cannot yet think so.

Joke for the Times. Father (in a poetic mood)— "Blessings there be on a man with soul so dead, Who never to himself himself said, 'I care for my own soul, my native land,' &c., &c. Lead, (bright, though not very extensable literary attainments) "Father, who thought those verses?" "Father, 'Scott, my son.'"

Lead, (meditatively)—How the old fellow must have been a good fellow, as he wrote that. Millwood, May 17.

VIRGINIA NEWS. Hon. Coleman Yellott, Hon. Thos. J. McKaig and Dr. Harding, three of the four commissioners appointed by the Maryland Legislature to the Southern Confederacy, arrived at Richmond, Va., on Sunday last, en route for Montgomery, Ala., and put up at the Exchange Hotel. It is said that they would remain in Richmond until Thursday next, with the view of hearing from the commissioners appointed by the Legislature to wait on President Lincoln, before proceeding further on their mission.

Lieut. Davidson of the first Tennessee Regiment was shot through the heart at Lynchburg on Sunday last in attempting to prevent a difficulty between two soldiers.

COMMERCIAL. New York Market. New York, May 21.—Flour and corn unchanged. Wheat favors buyers, export demand moderate. Provisions quiet. Whisky 12c.

Table with columns: MONTH, A L M A N C A, 1861. Rows for Fifth Month, May, and various days of the month with prices for Flour, Sugar, Coffee, etc.

The election of a member for the House of Delegates, to represent this city and county in the General Assembly of Virginia, at this crisis, is of momentous importance to our own interests, and to the interests of the State at large.

The legislation necessary in every aspect